

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

10 CHARLIE RESOSO,
11 Plaintiff
12 v.
13 CLAUSING INDUSTRIAL, INC.,
14 Defendant

Case No. 2:14-cv-00102-MMD-GWF
ORDER
(Plf.'s Motion to Remand – dkt. no. 12)

I. SUMMARY

16 Before the Court is Plaintiff Charlie Resoso's Motion to Remand (dkt. no. 12).
17 The Court has also considered Defendant Clausing Industrial, Inc.'s ("Clausing")
18 Opposition (dkt. no. 18) and Plaintiff's Reply (dkt. no. 19). For the reasons stated below,
19 the Motion is denied.

II. BACKGROUND

21 This personal injury lawsuit arises from Plaintiff's alleged injury as a result of
22 using an SUS 80H Engine Lathe, allegedly manufactured by Defendant.

23 This case was filed in the Eighth Judicial District of Clark County, Nevada on
24 November 14, 2013. Clausing received service on December 2, 2013, and answered on
25 December 19, 2013. Plaintiff mail-served Clausing with a copy of his Petition for
26 Exemption from Arbitration ("Petition for Exemption") on December 23, 2013. In the
27 Petition for Exemption, Plaintiff stated that he had, to date, incurred medical expenses in
28 excess of \$592,289.93. Clausing removed the case to this Court on January 21, 2014,

1 29 days after Plaintiff mail-served the Petition for Exemption. (Dkt. no. 1.) Plaintiff filed
2 this Motion to Remand on February 20, 2014. (Dkt. no. 12.)

3 Plaintiff argues that Defendant did not file the notice of removal of this action
4 within the statutorily-required 30-day time period.

5 **III. LEGAL STANDARD**

6 A defendant may remove an action to federal court if the plaintiff could have
7 initially filed the complaint in federal court. 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a). This case was removed
8 on the basis of this Court's diversity jurisdiction. (Dkt. no. 1.) If a defendant has
9 improperly removed a case over which the federal court lacks diversity jurisdiction, the
10 federal court must remand the case to state court. 28 U.S.C. § 1447(c). However, the
11 district court should deny a motion to remand to state court if the case was properly
12 removed to federal court. *Carpenters S. Cal. Admin. Corp. v. Majestic Hous.*, 743 F.2d
13 1341, 1343 (9th Cir. 1984).

14 **IV. ANALYSIS**

15 The only question presented in Plaintiff's Motion to Remand is whether Defendant
16 timely filed its Petition for Removal. Plaintiff argues that the clock for filing the Petition for
17 Removal began when Clausing's counsel accepted service, on December 2, 2013. (See
18 dkt. no. 12 at 4.) Defendant counters that the clock was triggered when it was served
19 with the Petition for Exemption, on December 23, 2013. (See dkt. no. 18 at 3.)

20 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(2)(B) holds that "each defendant shall have 30 days after
21 receipt by or service on that defendant of the initial pleading or summons . . . to file the
22 notice of removal." However, "if the case stated by the initial pleading is not removable,
23 a notice of removal may be filed within 30 days after receipt by the defendant, through
24 service or otherwise, of a copy of an amended pleading, motion, order or other paper
25 from which it may first be ascertained that the case is one which is or has become
26 removable." See *id.* § 1446(b)(3). In the case of removal based on diversity of
27 citizenship, "[i]f the case stated by the initial pleading is not removable solely because
28 the amount in controversy does not exceed the amount specified in section 1332(a),

1 information relating to the amount in controversy in the record of the State proceeding, or
2 in responses to discovery, shall be treated as an 'other paper' under subsection (b)(3)."
3 See *id.* § 1446(c)(3)(A).

4 The question for the Court, therefore, is whether service of the Complaint put
5 Defendant on notice that the amount in controversy requirement was met or whether
6 Defendant was first notified by the Petition for Exemption. Plaintiff argues that it was
7 evident from the face of the Complaint that the amount in controversy requirement was
8 met because the "Complaint specifically prayed for several different types of damages,
9 each in excess of \$10,000." (Dkt. no. 12 at 3.) Plaintiff's Motion lists the relief claimed in
10 the Complaint: (1) general damages in excess of \$10,000; (2) compensatory damages in
11 excess of \$10,000; (3) special damages in excess of \$10,000; (4) loss of earnings and
12 earnings capacity and future loss of earning capacity; (5) damages for lost past and
13 future household services; (6) punitive damages in excess of \$10,000; (7) prejudgment
14 interest; and (8) costs. (*Id.*)

15 Defendant argues that these allegations alone were not sufficient for Defendant to
16 know whether the amount in controversy requirement was met. The Court agrees. On
17 removal, Defendant bears the burden of demonstrating by a preponderance of the
18 evidence that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000. See *Guglielmino v. McKee*
19 *Foods Corp.*, 506 F.3d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 2007). Defendant must provide "summary
20 judgment-type" evidence to overcome the "strong presumption" against removal
21 jurisdiction. *Singer v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 116 F.3d 373, 377 (9th Cir. 1997);
22 *Gaus v. Miles, Inc.*, 980 F.2d 564, 566 (9th Cir. 1992). As jurisdiction cannot be based
23 on Defendant's speculation and conjecture, the allegations in the Complaint, without
24 further evidence, would not have been sufficient to establish that the amount in
25 controversy requirement was met. See *Lowderkmilk v. U.S. Bank Nat'l Ass'n*, 479 F.3d
26 994, 1002 (9th Cir. 2007).

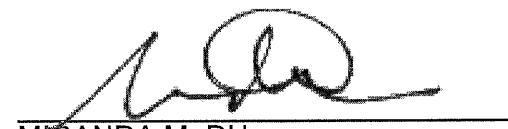
27 Plaintiff's Petition for Exemption, on the other hand, provided notice to Defendant
28 of the total amount of Plaintiff's special damages to date: \$592,289.93. (See dkt. no.

1 18-6.) As Defendant filed within 30-days of service of the Petition for Exemption, the
2 Court finds that Defendant's removal was timely.

3 **V. CONCLUSION**

4 It is hereby ordered that Plaintiff's Motion to Remand (dkt. no. 12) is denied.

5 ENTERED this 22nd day of April 2014.

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9 MIRANDA M. DU
10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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